



DECEMBER 2014 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Thursday, December 4, 2014

9:00 a.m. Hike - Badlands Bench with a View

2 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund for a moderate 2 ½ mile hike up a badlands wash to a memorial bench with a marvelous view. Learn about some interesting plants and geological features along the way. Meet at the intersection of Inspiration Wash and S-22 by driving east on S-22 past mile marker 28 for 1/2 mile.

Friday, December 5, 2014

9:00 a.m. Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

3 Hours

Volunteer Naturalist Celeste Doughty will be roaming the Borrego Palm Canyon Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features along the trail. Look for her in her volunteer vest as you hike to the palm oasis. This is not a guided hike.

Saturday, December 6

10:00 a.m. Bike Ride—Bikes and Brews at Blair Valley

5 Hours



Join ABF for our inaugural Bikes & Brews! This ride will start at the entrance to Blair Valley, ride through Little Blair Valley, travel on the pavement a short distance, and end back at the entrance to Blair Valley. Due to changing road conditions, bicycle route may be updated or altered. \$15 (\$10 for ABF members). Visit www.theabf.org for more information, or contact Ashley at ABF for details and to register: Ashley@theabf.org or 760-767-0446, ext. 1003.

11:00 a.m. – Junior Rangers

45 Minutes

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.



1:30 p.m. Talk & – The Pollen Path: Seasonal Movements of Native Americans

1 Hour

Discover the amazing secrets of the Native Americans who lived in the area that is now Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Join Park Aide Steve Russell in an exciting journey through the past as we take a look at how early residents migrated to take advantage of different food supplies.

4:00 p.m. Night Hike – Hike to the Moon

3.5 Hours



Join astronomer Dennis Mammana for a leisurely hike into the ruggedly beautiful Borrego Badlands and, along the way, hear some wonderful stories about our nearest celestial neighbor. \$40 (\$30 for ABF members) for adults and \$20 for children 6-12, free for children under 6. Visit www.theabf.org or call Ashley at ABF for more information or to register: Ashley@theabf.org or 760-767-0446, ext. 1003.

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& DENOTES PROGRAMS ACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED. PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR SPECIAL NEEDS
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DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON TRAILS OR TOURS.



DECEMBER 2014 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Saturday, December 6 (continued)

7:30 p.m. – Campfire ♿ – Ranger Encounters!

1 Hour

Join Ranger Don Strampfer to explore the multitude of remarkable experiences a Ranger might encounter while patrolling Anza-Borrego Desert State Park's great expanses! Meet at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center. P.S. Campfire songs are always a possibility.

Sunday, December 7

8:00 a.m. Auto Tour—Gas, Geese & Gryphons: Natural History of the Salton Sea 8 Hours



On this tour, we will see thousands of snow geese and many other migratory waterfowl, geothermal power plants, vast salt and mud flats, 50 million barnacles, and some strange and mysterious geologic features which are making quite a splash. \$70 (\$60 for ABF members). Visit www.theabf.org or call Ashley at ABF for more details or to register: 760-767-0446, ext. 1003.

9:00 a.m. Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

3 Hours

Volunteer Naturalist Bonnie Clapp will be roaming the Borrego Palm Canyon Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features along the trail. Look for her in her volunteer vest as you hike to the palm oasis. This is not a guided hike.

11:00 a.m. Walk ♿ – Those Amazing Desert Plants!

Explore the Visitor Center Garden with Park Interpreter Sally Theriault and discover some of the unique strategies that help plants survive here. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

Monday, December 8

10:00 a.m. Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

2 Hours

Volunteer Naturalist Aleese Golding will be roaming the Alternate Trail in Borrego Palm Canyon searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features along the trail. Look for her in her volunteer vest as you hike to the palm oasis. NOTE: This is not a guided hike.

10:00 a.m. Talk ♿ – Botany Society Lecture

1 Hour

San Luis Rey author and publisher Fred Roberts will present “The Oaks of San Diego County” in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab in a talk to the State Park Botany Society. The public is welcome, and there is no admission charge.

Thursday, December 11, 2014

9:00 a.m. Walk - Bill Kenyon Trail

2 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Mary Ekelund and Paul Larson for a 1.5 mile walk on uneven ground to a beautiful desert overlook. Meet at Yaqui Pass Campground, on Highway S-3, 1 mile north of Tamarisk Grove Campground. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring water.

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DECEMBER 2014 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Friday, December 12, 2014

9:00 a.m. Talk – Odontology for Paleontology

3 Hours

Dr. Lyndon Murray, District paleontologist, will present this lecture as part of the Volunteer Paleontology lecture series. Open to the public. Meet in the Discovery Lab at the Visitor Center.

Friday-Saturday, December 12-13, 2014

Cultural Landscapes of Northern Anza-Borrego

2 Days



This class will give students an appreciation of how the Native Peoples of the Colorado Desert and the bordering mountain ranges viewed, and still view, the lands in which they lived and live. There will be a classroom session Friday evening and a field session all day Saturday. \$85 (\$75 for ABF Members). Visit www.theabf.org or call Ashley at ABF to register or for more details: 760-767-0446 ext 1003.

Saturday, December 13, 2014

8:00 a.m. Hike—Mike's Hikes to Indian Head Peak

12 Hours



Want to go on a serious adventure in Anza-Borrego but don't know the area well enough to go it alone? Not for the feeble-legged or the weak-hearted, Mike's Hikes are extremely strenuous treks through difficult terrain. The first of these hikes will be to the summit of Indian Head Peak. Please read the online description before calling or registering, as this is a very difficult hike. \$45 (\$35 for ABF Members). Visit www.theabf.org or call Ashley at ABF to register or for more details: 760-767-0446 ext 100

8:30 a.m. Hike – Behind the Ghost Mtn Story: Facts, Fabrications, and Embellishments 3 Hours

Experience the Marshal South story on this trek up Ghost Mountain with Volunteer Naturalist Dan Leidecker. The hike is steep but relatively short (one mile up, one mile down) and offers a glimpse into the family's life on this remote mountain top. Bring water, a snack, hat and sturdy footwear. Meet at the entrance to Blair Valley, about a 45 minute drive from the Visitor Center.

11:00 a.m. Display - Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Lions

2 Hours


Volunteer Naturalist Bonnie Clapp will be stationed in the Visitor Center Garden greeting visitors and answering questions about her display of photos, horns, pelts, scat and other objects associated with our desert bighorn sheep and mountain lions. This is not a formal presentation; feel free to drop by anytime between 11 AM and 1PM for a visit with Bonnie!

11:00 a.m. – Junior Rangers

45 Minutes

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

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DECEMBER 2014 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Saturday, December 13, 2014 (continued)

12:00 p.m. Hike – Discovering the Archaeological History of the ‘Ehmuu Morteros 2 Hours

Discover the hidden secrets of an ancient Kumeyaay Native American village site. Join Volunteer Archaeologist and Naturalist Sam Webb to explore both rock art and historic milling features. This 1.5 mile hike is over uneven terrain. Be sure to bring the usual water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at the Morteros trailhead in Blair Valley, about 3 miles off Highway S-2 on a dirt road (turn into Blair Valley near mile marker 23).

1:30 p.m. Talk ♿ – The Pollen Path: Seasonal Movements of Native Americans 1 Hour

Discover the amazing secrets of the Native Americans who lived in the area that is now Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Join Park Aide Steve Russell in an exciting journey through the past as we take a look at how early residents migrated to take advantage of different food supplies.

3:00 p.m. Talk ♿ – Hardy Desert Survivors – 45 Minutes

Join Certified Interpretive Guide Abby Barker for a power point program in the Discovery Lab as she introduces you to some unique and amazing hardy desert survivors- the desert plants and discusses how the ingenious Native Americans used desert plants for their food, clothing, shelter, and medicine.

7:30 p.m. Campfire ♿ – Bats of Borrego and Beyond 1 Hour

Bats are in the air, everywhere! Find out why these mysterious night flyers are disappearing and how you can help protect them. Meet Ranger Jeri at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center.

Sunday, December 14

8:00 a.m. Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon 3 Hours

Volunteer Naturalist Dan Leidecker will be roaming the Borrego Palm Canyon Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features along the trail. Look for him in his volunteer vest as you hike to the palm oasis. This is not a guided hike.

Thursday, December 18, 2014

9:00 a.m. Hike – Squeeze through the Slot 3 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Mary Ekelund and Paul Larson on a moderate 3-mile roundtrip hike through a winding slot canyon with rugged walls, overhanging rocks, and other surprises. You will have to negotiate some tight squeezes and a short climb up a very steep hill. Be sure to bring the usual water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at Buttes Pass Road, 1.5 miles east of Borrego Springs Road on Highway 78.



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DECEMBER 2014 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Friday, December 19, 2014

7:30 p.m. Talk – Enjoy Anza-Borrego's Dark Night Sky!

1.5 Hours



Winter nights are perfect for Stargazing at the Visitor Center! Explore constellations, search for planets, and learn about the importance of dark skies everywhere. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on, binoculars if you have them (you'll be amazed at the view!), and flashlight (red lens is preferable, to preserve night vision). Telescope viewing if weather permits. Meet on the roof of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, December 20, 2014

7:30 a.m. Interpreting the Seismic Geology of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

8.5 Hours



Join ABF and Bob de Groot for an adventure half a billion years in the making and walk away with tools you can use for future adventures. \$60 (\$50 for ABF Members). Visit www.theabf.org or call Ashley at ABF to register or for more details: 760-767-0446 ext 1003.

11:00 a.m. – Junior Rangers

45 Minutes

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

11:00 a.m. Hike – Hidden Vista

1 Hour

Hike about ½ mile (1 mile round-trip) to the Bill Kenyon Overlook from Yaqui Pass Camp. We will explore the rocky habitat along the trail to reach the dramatic overlook. Meet Ranger Jeri Zemon at Tamarisk Grove Campground at 11:00 a.m.

12:00 p.m. Hike – Discovering the Archaeological History of the 'Ehmuu Morteros

2 Hours

Discover the hidden secrets of an ancient Kumeyaay Native American village site. Join Volunteer Archaeologist and Naturalist Sam Webb to explore both rock art and historic milling features. This 1.5 mile hike is over uneven terrain. Be sure to bring the usual water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at the Morteros trailhead in Blair Valley, about 3 miles off Highway S-2 on a dirt road (turn into Blair Valley near mile marker 23).

2:00 p.m. Walk - Welcome to the Desert

45 Minutes

Allow 45 minutes for this easy walk that introduces you to the plants and animals of the desert. Meet a Staff Interpreter at the Visitor Center entrance.

7:30 p.m. Campfire Program ♿ – Owls: The Eyes into Your Culture

1 Hour

Ranger D.L. Stephen takes you on a journey exploring why owls are important to numerous cultures. This program is for the young and those who will always stay young, bringing a different perspective to the birds of the night as we look into the different roles owls have in various cultures. Meet at Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire.

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DECEMBER 2014 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Sunday, December 21, 2014

7:30 a.m. Walk - Bird Walk

Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars. Rain cancels.

1.5 Hours



1:00 p.m. Walk – Those Amazing Desert Plants!

Explore the Visitor Center Garden with Park Interpreter Sally Theriault and discover some of the unique strategies that help plants survive here. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

45 Minutes

Friday, December 26, 2014

11:00 a.m. – Junior Rangers

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

45 Minutes



Saturday, December 27, 2014

11:00 a.m. – Junior Rangers

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

45 Minutes

1:00 p.m. Garden Walk - Small World

Everyone is impressed with the vast dimensions and stunning vistas of Anza Borrego Desert State Park. The desert is equally impressive on a micro-scale. Stretch your perspective and explore the natural history of the Park up close and personal with Volunteer Naturalist Daniel Hellyer for a 1 hour easy walk. Meet at the Visitor Center.

1 Hour

2:30 p.m. Walk - Welcome to the Desert

Allow 45 minutes for this easy walk that introduces you to the plants and animals of the desert. Meet a staff Interpreter at the Visitor Center entrance.

45 Minutes


7:30 p.m. – Campfire - Ranger Surprise

Join Ranger Mike at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center for an evening campfire program.

1 Hour



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DECEMBER 2014 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Sunday, December 28, 2014

7:30 a.m. Walk - Bird Walk

1.5 Hours



Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars. Rain cancels.

8:30 a.m. Walk – Birds of Tamarisk Grove

1 Hour

Join Becky Rusk, the Tamarisk Grove Campground Host, and/or Park Aide Beau for a stroll around the campground to look for birds. Meet at the campground office. Bring binoculars, if you have them.

1:00 p.m. Walk – Those Amazing Desert Plants!

45 Minutes

Explore the Visitor Center Garden with Park Interpreter Sally Theriault and discover some of the unique strategies that help plants survive here. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

Thursday, January 1, 2014

Join us for a “First Day” Hike to Celebrate the New Year!



9:00 a.m. New Year's Day Resolution Hike: Hike Alcoholic Pass!

4 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Ron & Peg Poitras to experience and discover the prehistory, history, and present-day journey of those who have used this trail for food, water, work, and fun. This is a 4 hour excursion into the pass. Meet at the north end of DiGiorgio Road. This is a strenuous but relatively short hike, bring water, snacks and wear hiking boots.


9:00 a.m. Hike Borrego Mountain West Butte

3 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Mary Ekelund and Paul Larson for a moderate 3-mile (roundtrip) hike to the top of one of our smaller peaks, but with great views! There will be some walking on narrow ridges and scrambling on rocks toward the summit. Meet just off Highway #78 at the intersection of Buttes Pass Road, 1.5 miles east of Borrego Springs Road.

Check at the Visitor Center for other scheduled “First Day” Hikes on January 1!

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DECEMBER 2014 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



DESERT SAFETY

✓ **Carry water AND drink it**

Saving your water for the hike back has led to death in Anza-Borrego. Drink plenty of water before you leave home, while you hike, and on the return route. If you feel thirsty, it is already too late. Drink lots of water and drink often.

✓ **Make sure your vehicle is desert-ready.**

Equip your vehicle for the desert. You should always carry extra water, a shade tarp, a shovel, a tire pump, and extra food.

✓ **Prepare yourself.**

In addition to carrying water, you should have protective clothing, sunscreen, a hat, a good map, food and a first aid kit which includes a comb and tweezers.

✓ **Have a plan.**

Leave all your trip information with a friend. Tell him/her your destination, the route you intend to follow, your expected return time, a description of your vehicle with license plate number, and the time by which he/she should notify park authorities in case you do not return.

✓ **Do not split up the group**

Stay together. Never leave anyone behind to rest.

✓ **Leave snakes alone.**

Many venomous snakes live in the desert. If you threaten them, they may strike. It is illegal to harass, catch, or kill any snake within Anza-Borrego. If bitten, remain calm and seek immediate medical attention.

✓ **When emergencies happen ...**

Stop. Stay calm. Seek shelter. If you are with your vehicle, remain there; do not leave it. Signal with mirrors, white cloth, whistle (three short blasts on a whistle, pause, then three more, repeat frequently), and put your hood up. It is much easier to find a vehicle in the desert than a person!!!

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